



# New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Explorer

<https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/freshwaterfishing/>

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Office of Fish and Wildlife Information Systems



# New Jersey Freshwater Fishing Explorer

Scroll down to begin.



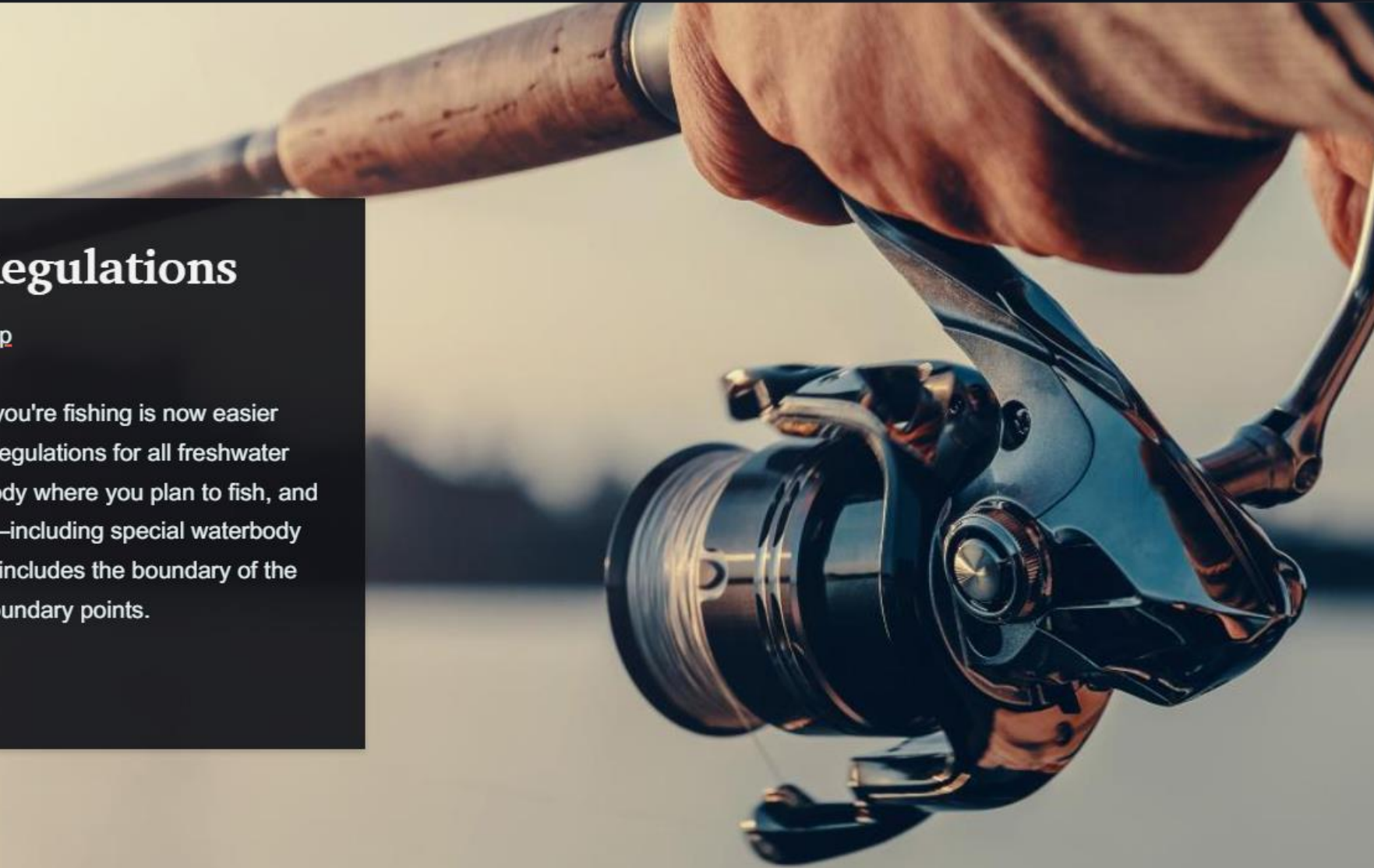


# Freshwater Fishing Regulations

[Explore - Interactive Map](#)

Knowing the freshwater fishing regulations for where you're fishing is now easier than ever. This application provides location-specific regulations for all freshwater waterbodies in New Jersey. Simply select the waterbody where you plan to fish, and a pop-up will display the location-specific regulations—including special waterbody regulations and species harvest regulations. The app includes the boundary of the Brook Trout Conservation Zone and fishing license boundary points.

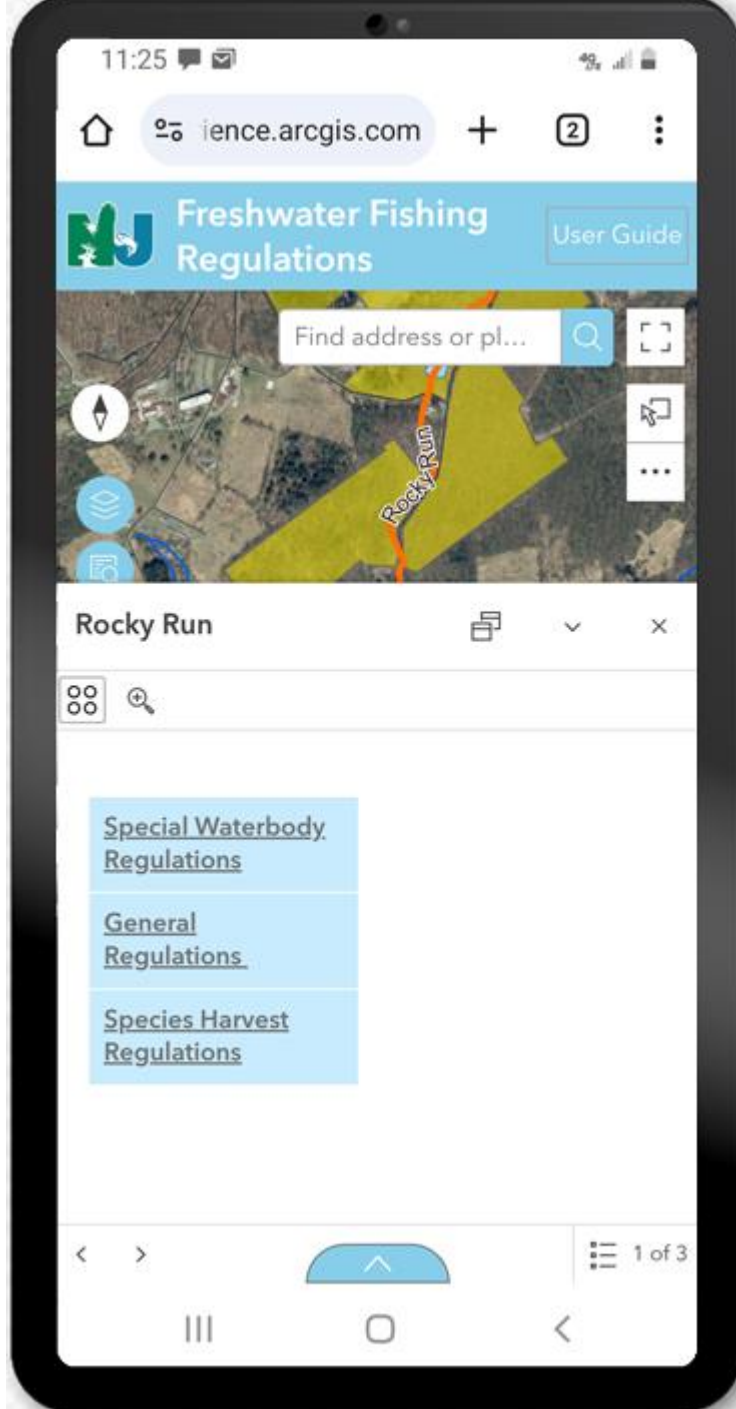
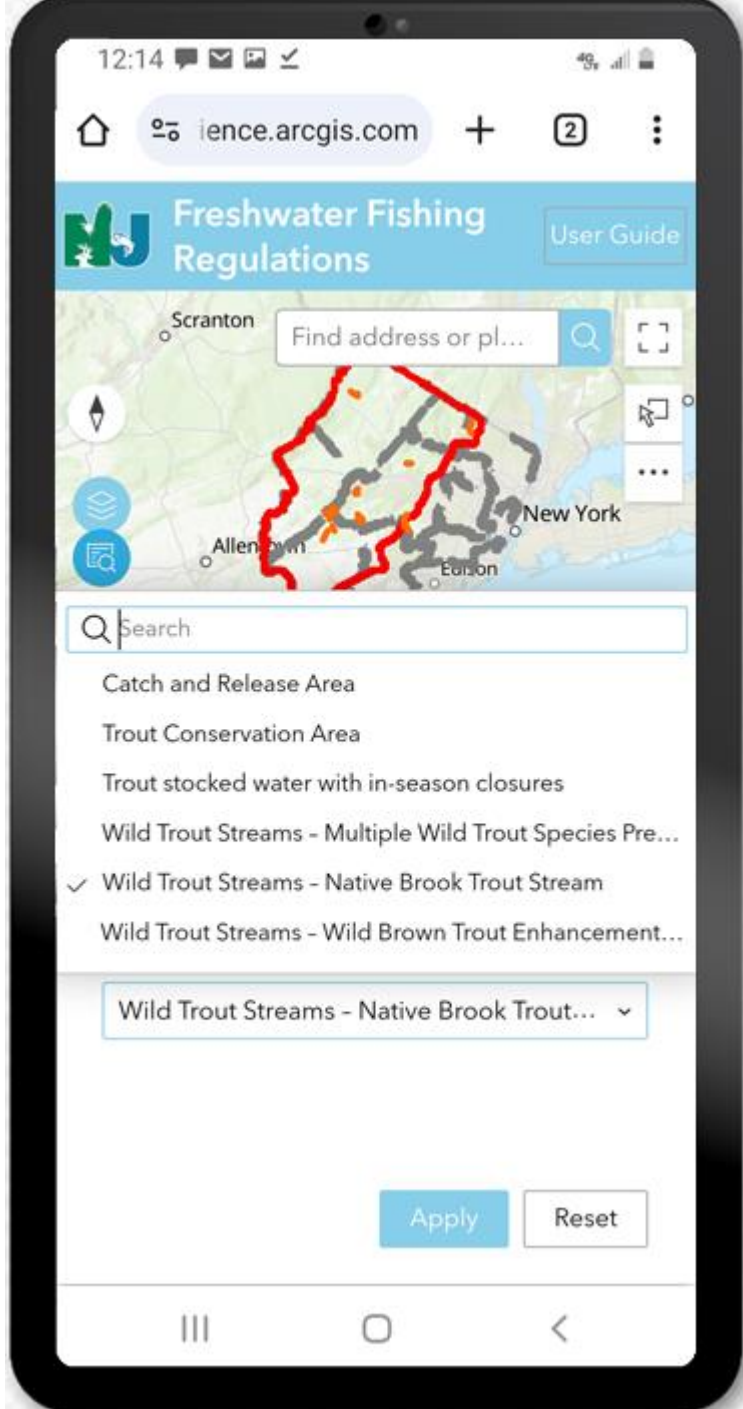
[Quick Start Guide](#)



# App Development

- Pulled out all regulations from Freshwater Fishing Digest and Fish Code
- Divided regulations into waterbody-specific regs, species harvest regs, and general regs
- Coded 38,842 waterbodies, 260,629 stream segments
- 68 unique combinations of waterbody regs
- 86 unique combinations of species harvest regs
- Additional layers: Brook Trout Conservation Zone, Freshwater Boundary License Points, Fish ladders





## Special Waterbody Regulations:

Regulation	Description
<b>Wild Trout Stream–Native Brook Trout Stream</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Brook Trout - Catch and Release only.</li><li>2. Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout - No minimum size, 2 combined daily limit.</li><li>3. Season - 8 a.m. Opening Day to Sept. 15, Catch and Release at all other times.</li><li>4. Fishing allowed year-round.</li><li>5. Artificials only, with no more than 3 hook points in total, all barbless.</li><li>6. Possession or use of bait, or synthetic bait with bait scent prohibited.</li></ol>
<b>Brook Trout Conservation Zone</b>	All brook trout caught within the Brook Trout Conservation Zone must be immediately released unharmed.

Regulations by Species:			Highlighting Denotes Exception to State Regulations
Species	Season	Size Limit	Daily Limit
Baitfish: (American Eel, Banded Killifish, Creek Chub, Fallfish, Fathead Minnow, Gizzard Shad, Golden Shiner, Margined Madtom, Mummichog, and Tadpole Madtom)	Open year-round. Exception: In trout stocked waters baitfish may be taken only with hook and line during stocking season from early Apr. to mid-June, or in waters open to fishing during the pre-season closure, from mid-Mar. to mid-June (exact dates shift each year).	None Exception: American Eel: 29"	35 Combined (50 in Delaware River) Exception: American Eel: 25
Bass, Hybrid Striped (Striped Bass x White Bass)	Open year-round	≥16"	2
Bass, Largemouth and Smallmouth	Jan. 1–Apr. 14; Apr. 15–June 15, catch and release only (all waters); June 16–Dec. 31	≥12"	5 combined
Bass, Striped (freshwater only)	Mar. 1–Dec. 31; Delaware River downstream of Calhoun St. Bridge: Mar. 1–31, June 1–Dec. 31	28" to 31"	1 (Non-offset circle hook required when fishing with bait)
Catfish, Channel	Open year-round	≥12"	5
Crappie, Black and White	Open year-round	≥8"	10
Frogs, American Bullfrog and Green	Jan. 1–Mar. 31; July 1–Dec. 31	None	15
Herring, Alewife and Blueback	CLOSED–All freshwater streams, rivers, and marine waters	Protected	Possession, take or attempt to take herring is PROHIBITED
Muskellunge, Tiger Muskie	Open year-round	≥40"	1 combined
Northern Pike	Open year-round	≥24"	2
Pickeral, Chain and Redfin	Open year-round	≥15"	5
Salmon, Atlantic (landlocked)	Open year-round	≥12"	2
Shad, American	CLOSED	None	0
Shad, Hickory	Apr. 1–May 14; July 1–Oct. 31	Protected	0
Snapping Turtle		≥12"	1 per day. Except under commercial harvest permits, turtles may not be sold. Turtles may not be taken with a gun or bow and arrow. The use of set lines is prohibited. Turtle eggs may not be taken at any time. Turtles may not be taken from land at any time. Turtles may not be taken from salt water.
Sturgeon, Atlantic and Shortnose	CLOSED–endangered	Protected	0
Sunfish and all other species with no specified creel limits (Rock Bass, White Perch, Yellow Perch, Sunfish (see exceptions) Bullheads, White Catfish, Suckers, Carp, Bowfin, Pumpkinseed, and all other species with no specified creel limits.)	Open year-round	None	25 combined
Sunfish, Banded, Blackbanded, Bluespotted, and Mud	CLOSED	Protected	0
Trout, Brook (Wild Trout Streams–Native Brook Trout Streams)	Open year-round	Catch and release only	All brook trout caught within the Brook Trout Conservation Zone must be immediately released unharmed.
Trout, Brown (Wild Trout Streams–Native Brook Trout Streams)	Opening day–Sept. 15; catch and release at all other times	None	2 combined (Brown and Rainbow); outside the Brook Trout Conservation Zone, a 9 inch limit for brook trout applies, and a daily limit of 2 trout in total (Brook, Brown, and Rainbow combined).
Trout, Lake	Open year-round	≥15"	2
Trout, Rainbow (Wild Trout Streams–Native Brook Trout Streams)	Opening day–Sept. 15; catch and release at all other times	None	2 combined (Brown and Rainbow)
Walleye	Jan. 1–last day in Feb.; Mar. 1–Apr. 30, catch and release only; May 1–Dec. 31	≥18"	3
Potentially Dangerous (Asian Swamp Eel, Bighead, Grass (diploid) and Silver Carp, Blue and Flathead Catfish, Round Goby, Brook Stickleback, Green Sunfish, Oriental Weatherfish, Snakehead and Warmouth. All black bass except for Largemouth and Smallmouth)	Open year-round. The possession and/or release of live, potentially dangerous fish is strictly prohibited. Anglers MUST destroy these species if encountered while angling.	None	Unlimited





[Welcome](#)

[Great Fishing Close to Home](#)

[Trout Stocked Waters](#)

[Freshwater Fishing Regulations](#)

[Aquatic Invasive Species](#)

# Aquatic Invasive Species Reporter

[Report Aquatic Invasive Species](#)

If you encounter any aquatic invasive species while enjoying the endless natural resources that our state has to offer, please fill out this [form](#) and submit your photos to help NJ Fish & Wildlife track and control any further spread.

New Jersey's [Top 20 Aquatic Invasive Species](#)





NEW JERSEY DEP  
**Fish and Wildlife**  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS

If you encounter any aquatic invasive species while enjoying the endless natural resources that our state has to offer, please fill out this form and submit your photos to help NJ Fish & Wildlife track and control any further spread.

[Please click here to view NJ's Top 20 Aquatic Invasive Species](#)

### ▼ Contact Information

Name \*

Email Address \*



## New Jersey Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan

### Appendix D: AIS Ranking Very Highly Invasive in New Jersey

#### APPENDIX D: AIS Ranking Very Highly Invasive in New Jersey

Appendix D: identifies those species ranking very highly as invasive in New Jersey (i.e., the "Top 20"). This content is intended to be used to populate a webpage hosted by NJDEP and is not meant to be a standalone document. Species are sorted by taxa and listed in alphabetical order by common name.

#### Algae



#### Dead man's fingers (*Codium fragile*)

Taxonomic Serial No.: 6897

**Description:** Tissue is thick, spongy, finger-like forking branches from an irregular holdfast. The branches are covered with densely packed, short hairs, giving a felt-like slimy texture. Growing up to 3 feet long.

**Native Range:** Northwest Pacific (Japan)

**Pathway:** A true global invader, this species probably became introduced from spores in ballast water as well as in contaminated seafood shipments (oysters).

**Current Ranking in NJ:** Emerging-Species with low enough abundance that eradication may still be possible.

**Photo credit:** Tangatwhenua, iNaturalist.

#### Plants



#### Creeping water primrose (*Ludwigia peploides* ssp. *glabrescens*)

Taxonomic Serial No.: 27355

**Description:** Perennial wetland plant. Long narrow leaves in clusters on alternate branching reddish-colored stems with bright yellow five-petaled flowers. Spreads via fragmentation. Utilizes allelopathy to outcompete other species, forming in dense mats, altering flows and sedimentation.

**Native Range:** native to parts of North and South America.

**Pathway:** A potential aquatic garden escape because of the attractive long-lived flowers, has invaded quiescent rivers and streams, lakeshores, wetlands, and wet ditches.

**Native look-alike:** Common look-alike is native wetland plant evening primrose (*Ludwigia palustris*).

**Current Ranking in NJ:** Emerging-Species with low enough abundance that eradication

## ▼ Contact Information

Name \*

Email Address \*

Phone Number \*

Capture Date \*



Invasive Species Caught \*

Select from the options provided. See pictures to help with identification. If the invasive species you caught is not on the list, please select "Other". You can select the photo to enlarge it.

Number Caught

## ▼ Catch Information

Location of Invasive Species Caught \*

Tap the crosshair icon to use your device's GPS. You can also search by address or location and move the pointer to the correct location.



Invasive Species Caught \*

Select from the options provided. See pictures to help with identification. If the invasive species you caught is not on the list, please select "Other". You can select the photo to enlarge it.

☐ Asian Swamp Eel☐ Bighead Carp☐ Blue Catfish

Number Caught

## ▼ Catch Information

Location of Invasive Species Caught \*

Tap the crosshair icon to use your device's GPS. You can also search by address or location and move the pointer to the correct location.



❗ Position source access error

Gear Used \*

Please indicate the gear type you used from the dropdown options. If it is not listed, please select "Other".



Invasive Species Caught \*

Select from the options provided. See pictures to help with identification. If the invasive species you caught is not on the list, please select "Other". You can select the photo to enlarge it.



Number Caught



## ▼ Catch Information

Length (in)

Weight (lbs)

Fate of Individual

- ☐ Released  
☐ Destroyed  
☐ Other

1 of 3



Location of Invasive Species Caught \*

Tap the crosshair icon to use your device's GPS. You can also search by address or location and move the pointer to the correct location.





## Aquatic Invasive Species Reporting Form

### Fate of Individual

- ☐ Released
- ☐ Destroyed
- ☒ Other

1 of 3

### Location of Invasive Species Caught \*

Tap the crosshair icon to use your device's GPS. You can also search by address or location and move the pointer to the correct location.



❗ Position source access error

### Gear Used \*

Please indicate the gear type you used from the dropdown options. If it is not listed, please select "Other".

### Comments

### Image(s) of Invasive Species Caught \*

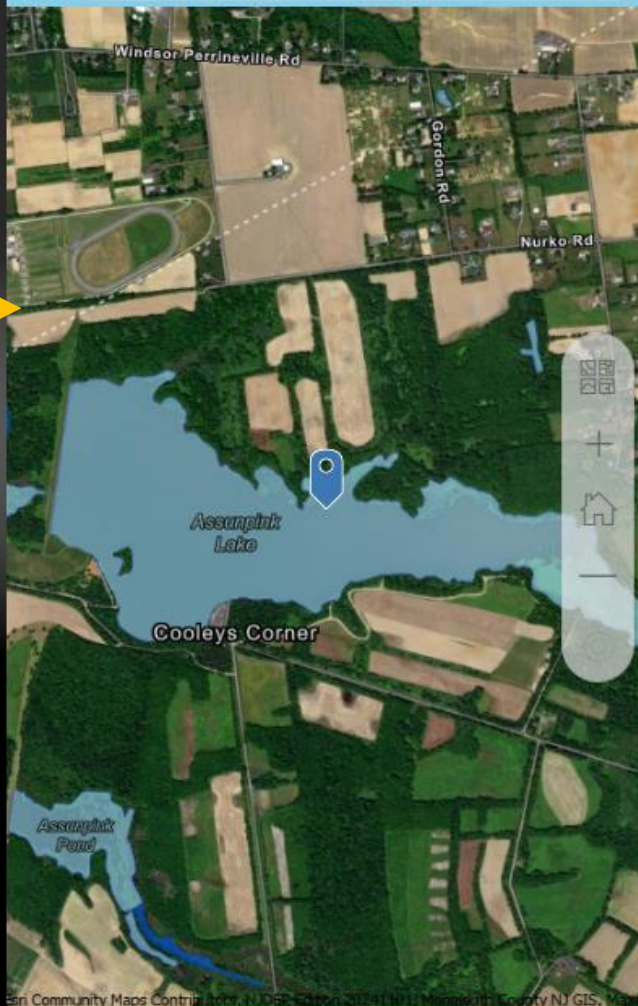


## Location of Invasive Species Caught

Tap the crosshair icon to use your device's GPS. You can also search by address or location and move the pointer to the correct location.



Search location or map coordinate



40°13'8.450"N 74°30'44.511"W

## Aquatic Invasive Species Reporting Form

- ☐ Destroyed
- ☒ Other

1 of 3

### Location of Invasive Species Caught \*

Tap the crosshair icon to use your device's GPS. You can also search by address or location and move the pointer to the correct location.



❗ Position source access error

### Gear Used \*

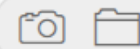
Please indicate the gear type you used from the dropdown options. If it is not listed, please select "Other".

Other

### Gear Used (other)

### Comments

### Image(s) of Invasive Species Caught \*







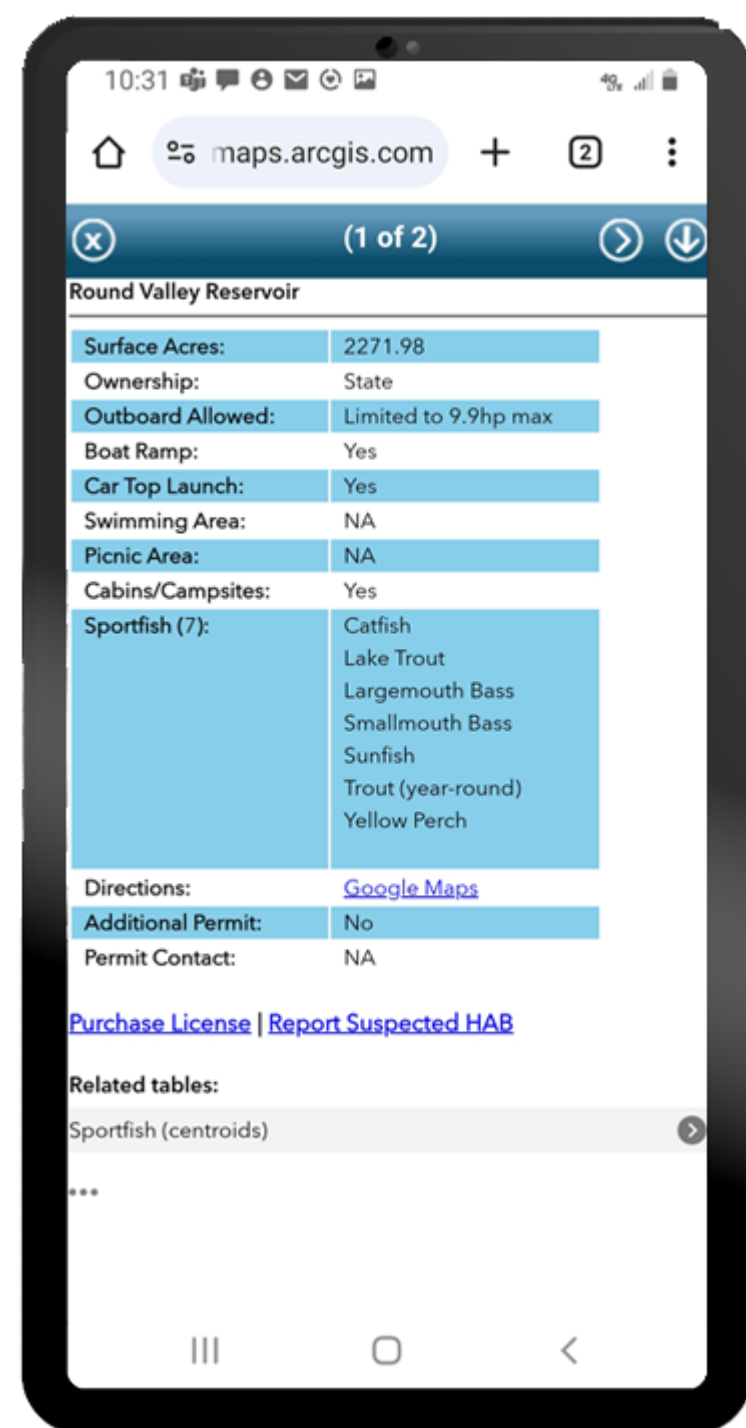
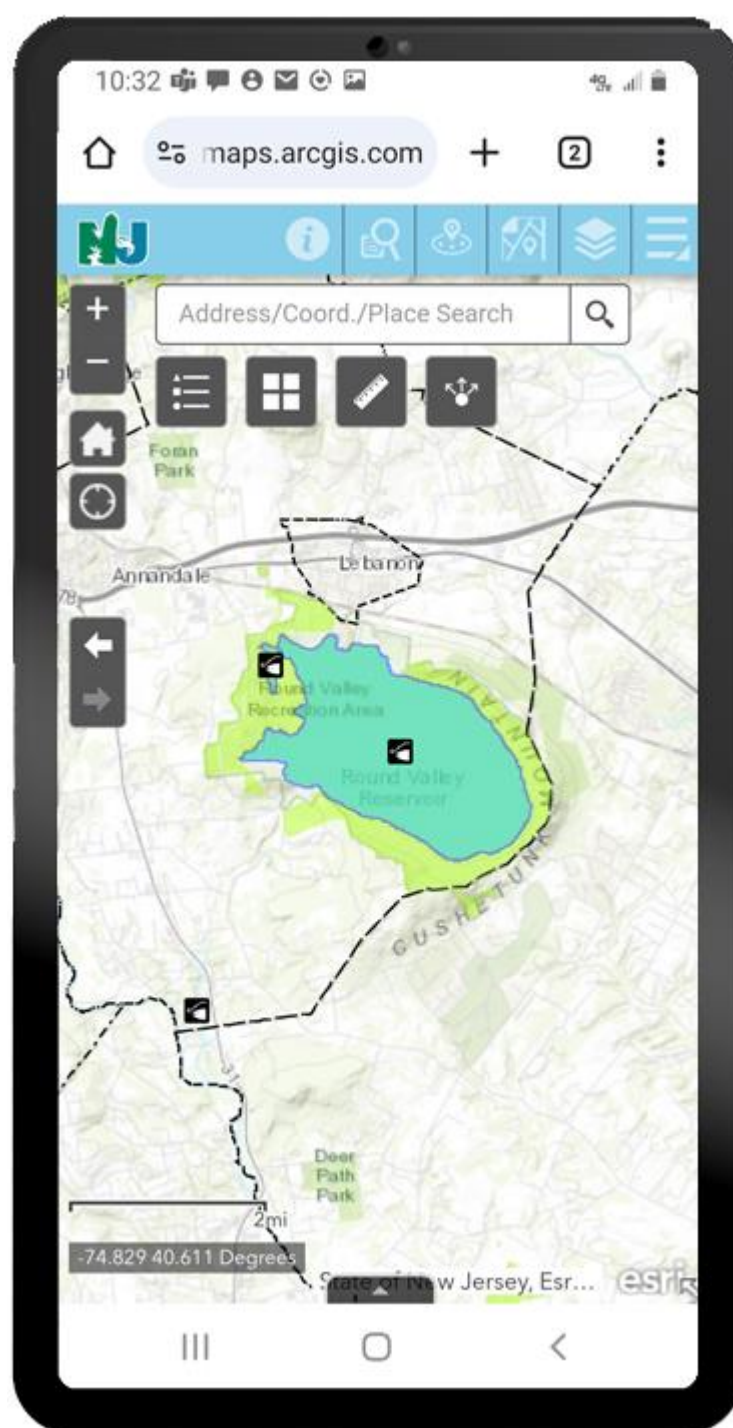
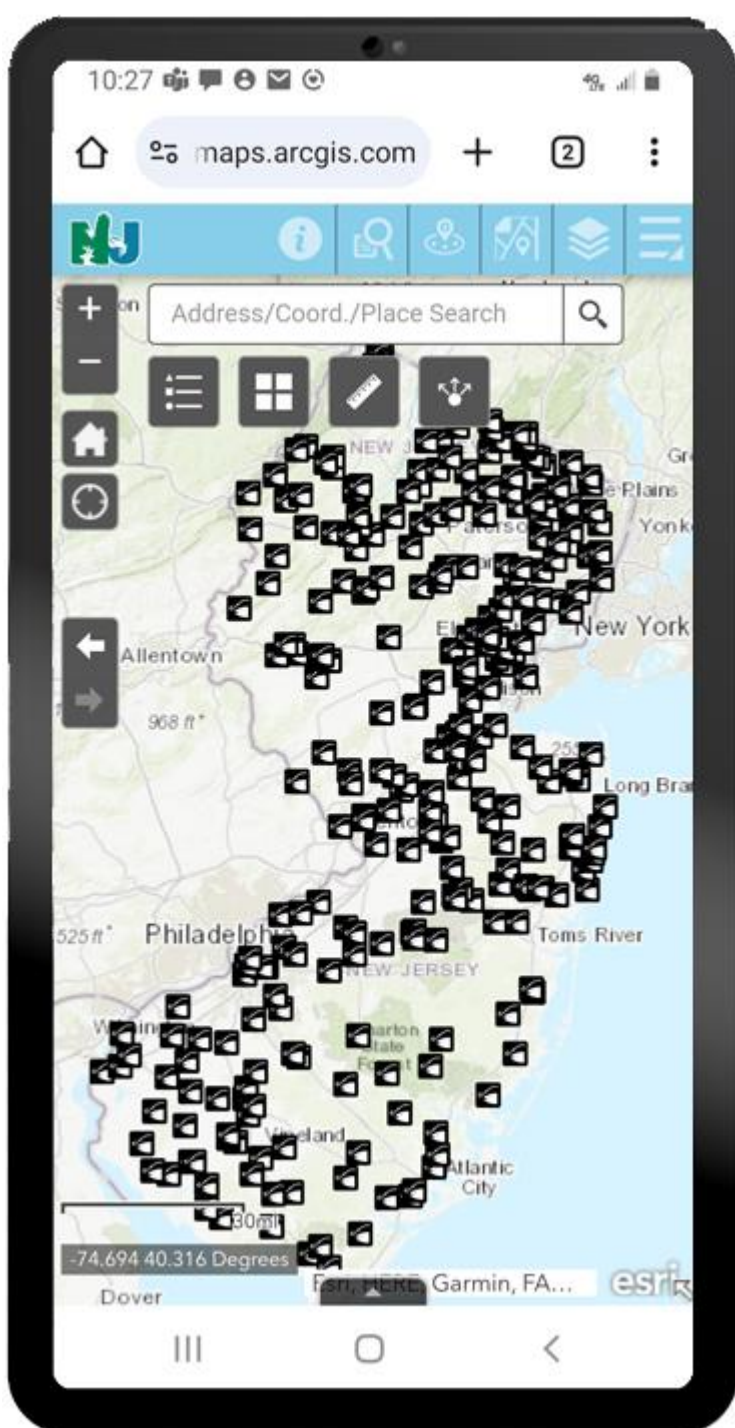
# Great Fishing Close to Home

[Explore - Interactive Map](#)

The **Great Fishing Close to Home in NJ** application allows users to explore the great diversity of fishing opportunities New Jersey has to offer. This application includes over 290 publicly accessible lakes, ponds and reservoirs picked by NJ Fish and Wildlife staff as good places to fish in the state. All have sizable populations of desirable species. Several of them also provide access for people with disabling conditions. For each waterbody, information includes a list of the primary sportfish species present, ownership, whether a permit is required and outboard motors are permitted, and if there are other amenities such as boat ramps, swimming areas, picnic areas, and camping.

[Quick Start Guide](#)









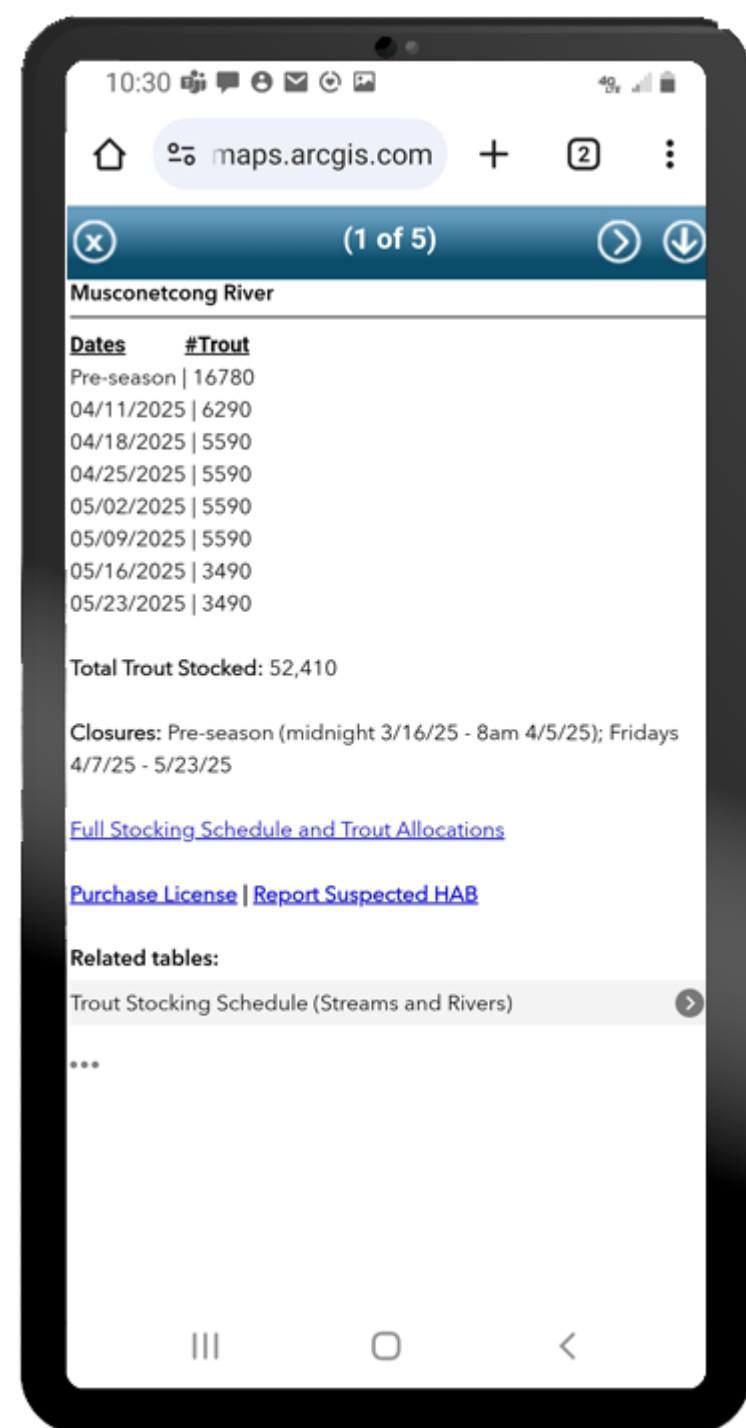
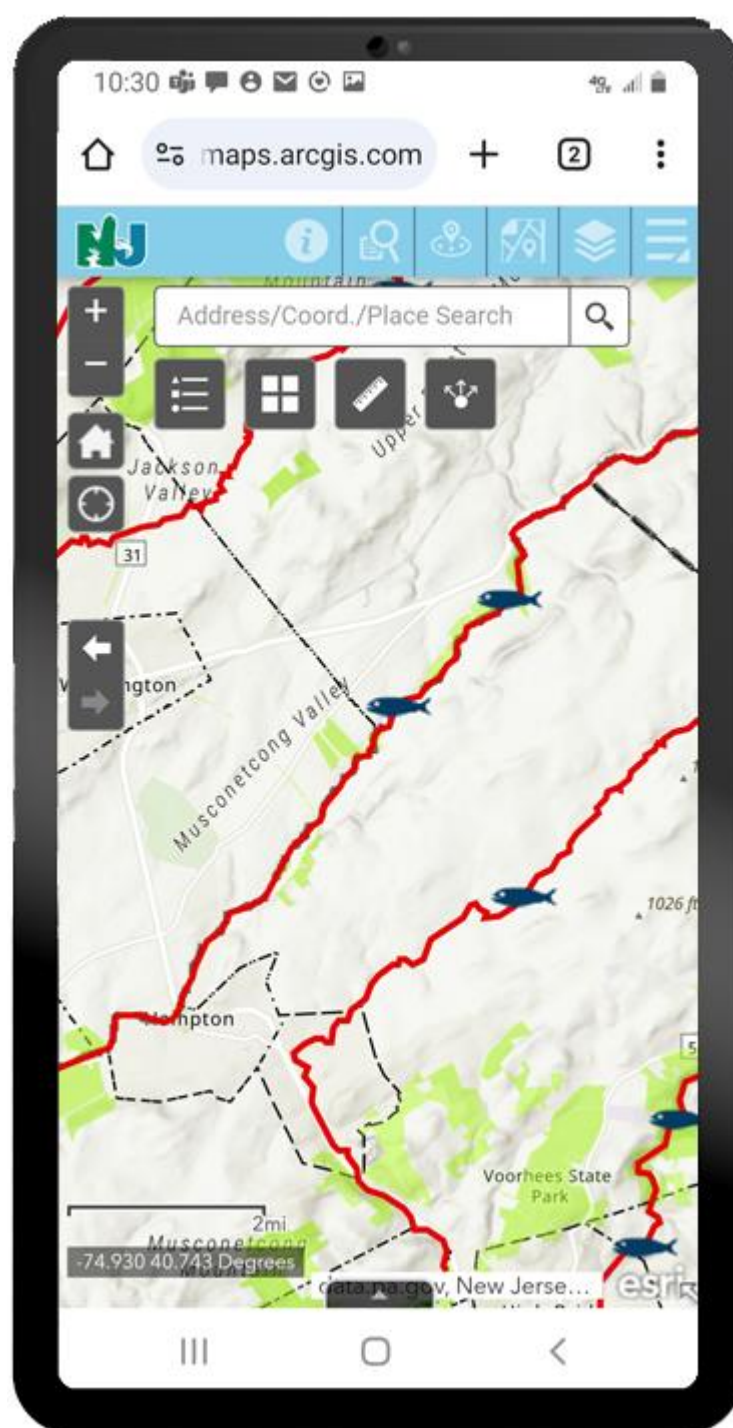
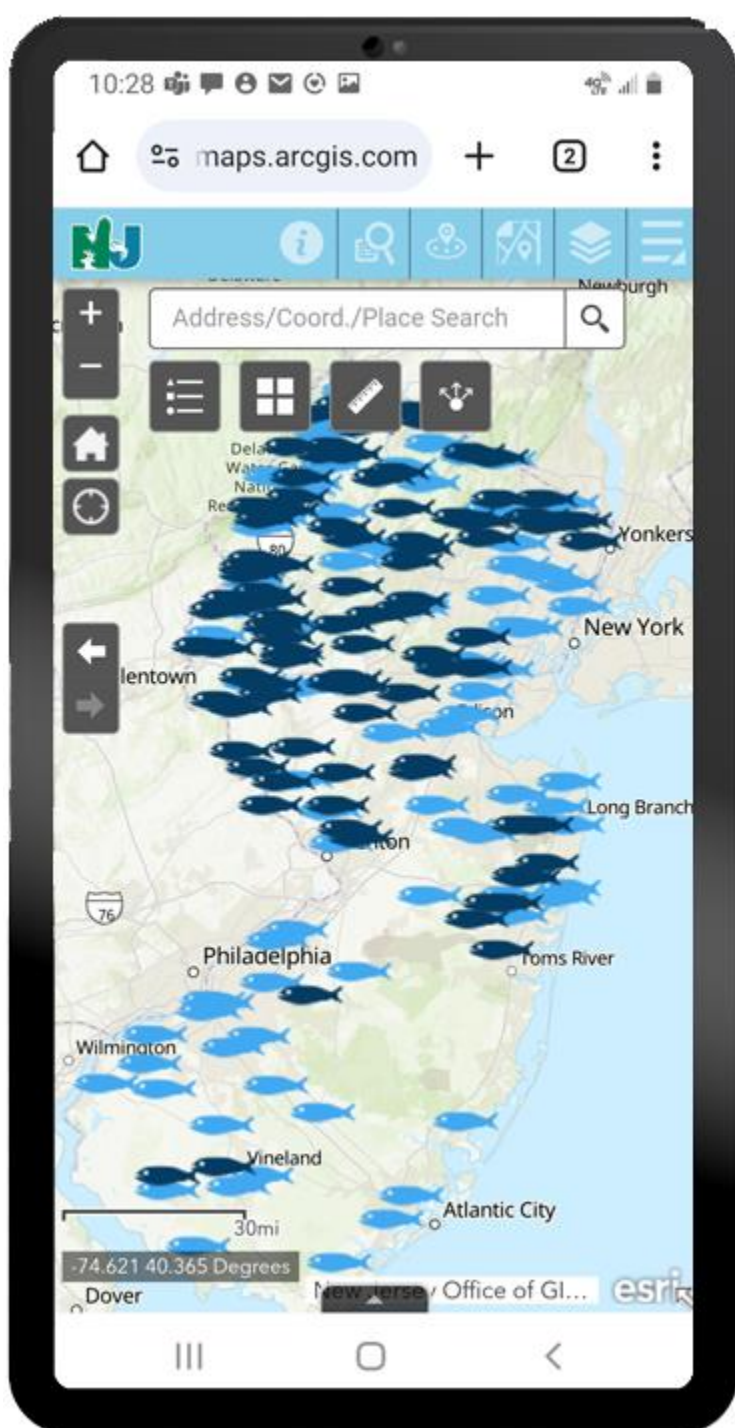
## Trout Stocked Waters

[Explore - Interactive Map](#)

Each spring, New Jersey Fish and Wildlife stocks approximately 570,000 trout throughout New Jersey. Select waters are also stocked during the fall and winter seasons. Anglers who purchase a trout stamp in addition to their New Jersey fishing license are eligible to fish for trout in these waters in accordance with listed season closures, special regulations, creel and size limits, and other regulations. This app provides the stocking dates and number of trout stocked for all trout stocked waters in our spring trout stocking program. Clicking on a water feature within the map will pull up the stocking schedule, the number of fish to be stocked and closures.

[Quick Start Guide](#)





# Web Views

App	2022	2023	2024	2025
Freshwater Fishing Explorer	5,187	10,162	11,449	3,883
Great Fishing Close to Home	16,594	48,300	70,125	18,786
Trout Stocked Waters	13,695	27,728	38,336	25,170